REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 6, 2008. Claims 1, 5 and 20 to 35 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 23, 25 and 30 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge the Claim To Priority and the accompanying certified priority document filed December 15, 2003.

Claims 32 to 35 were objected to for various informalities. Without conceding the correctness of the objections, Applicants have amended the claims in the manner recommended by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claims 1, 5, 20 to 22, 25 to 29 and 32 to 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0085942 (Narusawa) in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0142325 (Leslie). Claims 23, 24, 30, 31, 33 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Narusawa.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system, in which a printer and a host computer, each of which includes a communication interface for transmitting and receiving information in real time, are connected to each other to communicate with each other. The printer includes a read-out unit for reading out image data from a detachable recording medium of the printer; an operation panel including a plurality of operation members, each for receiving an instruction from a user, wherein the plurality of operation members includes at least a print instruction button, a preview display button, and a print setting button; a printer engine for performing printing; an operation panel controller for effecting control so as to cause the printer engine to print the image data read out from the

detachable recording medium of the printer if the print instruction button is operated by the user without operating the preview display button, and if one of the print instruction button and the print setting button is operated by the user subsequently to operation of the preview display button, generate a corresponding interruption event to transmit the generated interruption event to the host computer via the communication interface of the printer so that the printer engine effects printing in accordance with a print instruction including print image data being received from the host computer when the print instruction button is operated subsequently to the operation to the preview display button; and a transmission unit for transmitting, via the communication interface of the printer, the image data which is read out by the read-out unit. The host computer includes an interruption controller for, in response to the preview display button being operated, detecting the interruption event transmitted by the printer; a receiving unit for receiving, from the printer, the print setting information generated by the printer and the image data read out from the detachable recording medium of the printer, if the interruption controller detects the interruption event which is generated and transmitted by the printer in accordance with the print setting button being operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button; a display control unit for causing a display apparatus to effect a print preview display on the basis of the print setting information and image data received by the receiving unit; and a print instruction generation unit for generating the print instruction including print image data and transmitting the generated print instruction to the printer, if the interruption controller detects the interruption even which is generated and transmitted by the printer in accordance with the print instruction button is operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button.

Claim 23 is directed to a print system having a host computer substantially in accordance with Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, namely Narusawa and Leslie, whether considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the print system of Claim 1. In particular, the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest that a printer of the printing system has an operation panel controller for effecting control so as to cause a printer engine to print image data read out from detachable recording medium of the printer if the print instruction button is operated by the user without operating the preview display button, and if one of the print instruction button and the print setting button is operated by the user subsequently to operation of the preview display button, generate a corresponding interruption event to transmit the generated interruption even to the host computer via the communication interface of the printer so that the printer engine effects printing in accordance with a print instruction including print image data being received from the host computer when the print instruction button is operated subsequently to the operation to the preview display button. In addition, Narusawa and Leslie, whether considered either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest a host computer comprising a print instruction generation unit for generating the print instruction including print image data and transmitting the generated print instruction to the printer, if the interruption controller detects the interruption even which is generated and transmitted by the printer in accordance with the print instruction button is operated subsequently to the operation of the preview display button.

As stated in the Office Action, Narusawa fails to disclose a stand-alone printer and therefore fails to disclose or suggest that the stand-alone printer is arranged to communicate with the host computer in accordance with different operation buttons being operated in a predetermined manner such that the printer not only affects the print operations of the stand-alone printer but also a remote printer of a host computer. Specifically, Narusawa fails to

disclose or suggest that the printer and the host computer are arranged so that the printer does not transmit the interruption event to the host computer to affect printing as the stand-alone printer if the print instruction button of the printer is operated without operating the preview display button, while transmitting the interruption event to the host computer to receive the print instruction including print image data if the print instruction button of the printer is operated subsequently to operation of the preview display button, as clearly featured in independent Claim 1.

In addition, Leslie discloses a system which includes a printer and a Personal Computer (PC), which communicate with each other. However, Leslie also fails to disclose or suggest an interrupt event which the printer generates and transmits to the PC in accordance with a predetermined operation of an operation button. In the Office action, it is contended that Leslie, in paragraph [0041], discloses an interrupt event. However, the cited portion of Leslie merely describes that a print-control data stream is transmitted back to the PC and does not explicitly refer to a relationship between an interrupt event nor does the cited portion describe operation of predetermined operation buttons. Therefore, it cannot be said that Leslie discloses ether the printer with an the operation panel controller or the host computer with the print instruction generation unit of Claim 1.

Accordingly, the cited references of Narusawa and Leslie, whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention as recited in independent Claims 1 and 23. In light of these deficiencies in Narusawa and Leslie as discussed above, Applicants submit that amended independent Claims 1 and 23 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Amended independent Claim 25 is directed to a print system control method substantially in accordance with the print system of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 25 is also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claim 30 is directed to a print system control method substantially in accordance with the print system of Claim 23. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 30 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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